



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PORTO RICO.

*Concerning bills of health.*PONCE, PORTO RICO, *July 29, 1899.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of June 25, in reply to one from this office of May 25, concerning the signing conjointly of bills of health at this port by myself and the United States consular agent here, and informing me that in compliance with War Department Circular No. 16, May 11, 1899, collectors of customs have been authorized to perform the duties of United States consuls and consular agents at ports in territory under military government, but that the officers of this service would still retain the function of issuing and signing all bills of health, I have the honor to inform you that these orders went into effect some days ago, and that the function of issuing and signing all bills of health was retained at this port by this office, but under the same orders the following conditions must be complied with:

All bills of health issued to foreign vessels sailing for any port of the United States (Cuba and Porto Rico included), or to a foreign port via a United States port, must be signed by the collector of this port as well as myself, and the usual consular fee is charged and collected for the same by the custom-house.

American vessels with similar destination are not required to have the signature of the collector on their bills of health, but may obtain it, if they desire to do so, without any fee. In consequence, some of them obtain it, and some do not.

Vessels bound for foreign ports and not calling by any United States port are, of course, not required to have the collector's signature on their bills of health. Vessels of this class, if they desire it, are always granted bills of health by this office. Most of them take them, some do not. They of course carry in addition a bill of health from the proper foreign consulate.

It is needless to add that this office of course neither charges nor collects any fees.

These facts are submitted for the information of the Bureau. The delay in submitting them is partly due to the fact that for some time the matter of fees remained in doubt awaiting a decision from San Juan.

Respectfully, yours,

C. H. LAVINDER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.